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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 002872

SIPDIS

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TAGS: MARR PREL TU NATO

SUBJECT: APRIL 29 BELGIAN MINI-SUMMIT: TURKS SHARE OUR CONCERN OVER SUMMIT'S OUTCOME AND STATEMENT

REF: STATE 109725

(U) Classified by Political-Military Counselor Stuart Brown.
Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

¶11. (C) On May 1, Polmiloff, drawing on reftel talking points, briefed MFA/NATO Department Second Secretary Esra Dogan on USG concern over the April 29 Belgian mini-summit Joint Statement. Dogan, who had also been briefed earlier that day by the UK Embassy, said she was not surprised by the mini-summit's outcome, though she had hoped that the Germans would have played a role in working for a more "conciliatory" Joint Statement. Dogan said the GOT shares our concern and is very disappointed and worried that "things are not going in the right direction." She explained that the French and Germans at an April 23 Convention on the Future of Europe Working Group on Defense submitted proposals along the same lines as the April 29 Joint Statement. Dogan said that these French/German proposals will be finalized at the Convention's next meeting on May 15. Turkey, as an aspiring EU member, participates in the Convention and its working groups. Thus, Dogan said that Turkey's EU Mission in Brussels has been in close contact on this issue with the UK and hopes that together their two countries can positively moderate the text of the Convention's final paper.

¶12. (C) Dogan went on to say that the Convention's final paper does not have too much significance, as it reflects a varied and large group including parliamentarians and representatives from all aspiring EU candidates. The real decision on the EU's efforts to establish its own security and defense identity will be decided at the EU's Intergovernmental Conference, in which Turkey is not invited to participate. When this debate eventually takes place, Dogan expects that the UK and the Dutch will fight to water down any language that is at odds with long-standing NATO commitments and the "Berlin-Plus" framework between NATO and the EU approved in March.

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